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SALT LAKE CITY, - JULY 2, 1907.

FINANCES OF THE CITY.

Some time ago we called attention to the fact that the tax-payers of this city had better prepare for another bitter pill. The warning came in the form of a bombastic panegyric of the so-called "American" party officials of the city administration, by the party Organ. It has proved true in the past that whenever the officials referred to have been unable to cover up any longer the critical financial condition, for which they are responsible, the Organ has endeavored to direct public attention to something else. It was therefore but natural to conclude, from the panegyric, that some disgraceful surprise was in store. And from the amount of sugar offered it was also natural to suppose that the pill was particularly bitter.

But, it is safe to say that few expected to find the condition as bad as it is shown to be by the figures now made public. At the beginning of this year there was a large deficit. The auditor's report was delayed until the public commenced to ask whether the deficit was to be a report at all. When it finally came after considerable fixing up, it was found to show a large deficit which has never been satisfactorily explained. But the probability now is that at the end of this year, there will be a shortage of in the neighborhood of \$200,000 to explain. Last year's shortage of \$20,000, or more, the Organ, with its common puerile mendacity, charged to a previous administration. For the present condition it must invent something else, or fasten the responsibility where it belongs.

It is true enough that some public improvements have been commenced during the past two or three months, but not enough to bankrupt the city, provided the expenditure had been honest and judicious. This is best illustrated by the fact that the Organ, in order to make a showing, had to claim, indirectly, all the sidewalks and all the pavements ever laid in the city, as well as all other public improvements; and also that the torn-up condition of the streets is proof of the activity of the city officials, although the fact is that perhaps the greater part of this condition is due to the improvements undertaken by the Street Car company and other private concerns. If an itemized list of public improvements undertaken by the "American" party officials—to borrow a term used by the Organ—was given, it would be found to be Lilliputian, indeed, compared to the Brobdingnagian expenditures.

But notwithstanding this condition, the financiers of the party refuse to even try to effect a saving. They refuse with a sneer to advertise for printing bids, for instance, although by so doing they would obtain more reasonable prices than they now pay to the Organ. And this is but one illustration of the manner in which they are handling the people's money. The same policy is followed in everything. The resources of the city are being squandered more recklessly than ever in its history, though there was an administration once against the misdeeds of which citizens of all creeds and affiliations had to protest in mass-meetings.

THE COMING FOURTH.

For a number of years the demand for a "safe and sane" celebration of the Nation's great holiday has been heard through the press. But every year has recorded new casualties. Life and limbs, and property, have been sacrificed throughout the land, to no purpose. Why a day set apart for the commemoration of the birth of national independence should be a day of formidable accidents including conflagrations and deaths, is one of the mysteries of civilization.

It is not to be hoped that the celebration will be any more "safe and sane" this year than other years. A number of accidents will occur, as usual. The importance of having injuries attended to immediately should, however, not be forgotten. Wherever possible, medical attendance should be secured, even if only a seemingly insignificant scratch has been received, because, in most cases blood poisoning, lockjaw, or tetanus, can be prevented by the prompt application of proper remedies.

When professional aid cannot at once be secured, scratches, bruises, etc., should nevertheless be treated with some antiseptic application. A solution of boracic acid is recommended, or some other germicide.

It is claimed that the germs of tetanus in many instances are contained in the powder used in the caps or crackers, and are forced under the skin or into the circulation at the moment of the infliction of the wound. In other cases the germs may be on the skin at the time, or get into the wound later. The germ which causes this frequently fatal malady, it is said, is earth-born, and hands and feet are constantly exposed to contact with earthy substances or things which may have been charged with this deadly foe. Wounds on the hands and feet are therefore more likely than others to afford an entrance to such germs.

In view of the dangers of explosives in the hands of inexperienced children, it would seem incumbent upon parents to see to it that their little ones are not recklessly exposing themselves or their playmates. It would, no doubt,

be better to celebrate the birthday of this nation without the feature that reminds one of fire-worship, or sun-worship. But, if explosives must be set off, this should certainly be done under experienced supervision. The little ones naturally like fire-works. They like a razor, too. But that is no reason why they should be given one, with which to hurt themselves and others. Let common sense prevail in all things. If they must play with fire, let someone with experience watch over their play, to prevent accidents as far as possible.

THE "UNWRITTEN LAW."

As was expected, Loving, the slayer of Estes, has been acquitted by the court in Virginia.

Loving shot Estes because he believed that the latter had debauched his daughter.

The defense offered to prove that the charge against Estes was not true, but the judge ruled that evidence to this effect would be inadmissible. The only question before the jury was, therefore, whether or not Loving actually believed the story told to him by his daughter. Thus the life of a man presumably innocent according to the theory of our laws, was made to depend upon the state of mind of another man. If the other man was rash, impulsive, insane, or suffering from mental aberration or hallucination, so much the worse, to be sure, for his victim; but such circumstances do not affect the main proposition, promulgated by the court, which is, frankly stated, that one man has the right to take the life of another provided he believes that other to be worthy of death. And we are told that this is American law.

As a matter of fact, this cannot be the law. The only time at which a person may legally take human life is when he is commissioned by the government to do so, as the executioner of a prisoner condemned, or as a soldier in time of war in striking at the armed foes of the nation; or in self-defense when there is no other apparent way of defending himself from death or from great bodily harm; or when to prevent a felony or to protect the life and honor of those whom he is legally bound to protect, he strikes down the assailant.

It is a gross misapplication of these legal justifications for homicide, to seek to apply them, not to prevent a threatened injury, but to avenge one already committed. With good reason the law permits acts which prevent the aggression and hinder or defeat the attempted crime; and with equally good reason, the law denies the right of any one after the crime has been committed and after the case cannot be remedied in that respect, to assume the sole function of the courts in passing and executing the sentence of death. The cool and deliberate killing in such a case is mere murder; and no amount of sophistry can becloud that issue or relieve the outrage of that low, common, and criminal effect before the law.

For if it were true that one man may kill another whom he honestly believes to be worthy of death, then every premeditated assassination may be shown to be justifiable, natural and proper. For has not the murderer tried the issue in his own mind, and sentenced his victim to death before he strikes the blow which carries his decision into effect? The murderer always believes, for some reason or other, that his victim should die; and if the murderer's belief as to the merits of the case is to prevail, the term of human life is rendered more precarious than it naturally is, and the law is thrust still further, and more contemptuously aside to make way for the play of individual passions and the uncertainty of single and generally prejudiced judgments.

Courts of law should be the last to admit that in any case they cannot do full and impartial justice; and if the law does not meet every case, it is easy to broaden or to amend it so that justice may be done and order prevail.

THE MEANING OF LIBERTY.

The Constitution of the United States is the written charter of the liberties of the American people. The preamble to that memorable instrument begins in the words:

"We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution."

Part of the preamble looked backward to the injustice inflicted upon the colonists by the British crown in the past, part of it related to conditions which prevailed at the time of the adoption of the Constitution; but the most important part of it looked to the future, with the view of securing to the coming generations, the yet unborn children of the future Republic, the same "blessings of liberty" which it guaranteed to the fathers of the original American commonwealth. Today we shall consider only the subject in its first mentioned aspect.

As to the past, the colonists claimed, in the first place, only the usual rights accorded by the jurisprudence of Great Britain to Englishmen everywhere. And they held that their rights as bona fide subjects of the British nation had been invaded in four distinct aspects.

1. They complained that they had been denied the ancient and cherished right of all English subjects in being deprived of trial by jury in its true and proper sense. As early as 1715, the Magna Charta had expressly declared that no freeman should be dispossessed or imprisoned except by the judgment of his peers and the law of the land. Some of the colonists accused of crime were taken to England for trial; others were tried before the royal judges in America. In the former case, there could be no jury of peers, but only of strangers; in the latter case, there was no jury at all.

2. Another violation of constitutional right complained of by the colonists was that the royal officers were empowered to make arrests and to search houses without warrant, in contravention of the time-honored maxim that an Englishman's house is his castle, and cannot be lawfully entered against the owner's consent by any one, not even by an officer of the law, unless the latter has been duly authorized so to do

by some competent court, or unless there is good reason to believe that a felony has been committed therein.

3. A third complaint was the quartering of troops among the people at their expense in time of peace, and then protecting the soldiery by mock trials when charged with crime and depriving them of the right of a fair trial upon the people. This was in violation of the English doctrine and practice that the civil is superior to the military power, and that it amounts to tyranny and unconstitutional usurpation to reverse that order.

4. The fourth complaint of the colonists was that they were taxed without representation, for they had to pay the imperial revenue assessments and they had no representative in the House of Commons, no members of the House of Lords. This condition was in violation of the ancient British maxim and principle that no tax, aid, or other form of revenue should be collected by the sovereign from the people except as the representatives of the latter should decree by vote the raising of such moneys.

These were the past wrongs of which the colonists complained, and with good reason. And the Latter-day Saints, looking backward upon their own history, may well be grateful today for "the blessings of liberty," since they, too, in their way, have been subjected, chiefly through the malice of profligate men and the misrepresentations of bigoted and fanatical zealots, who have been their foes, to a deprivation of the same four great classes of rights. This unintentional injustice to a people, the nation of liberty has wisely and generously brought to an end, but a few disappointed profligates have incited to unusual activity several envious sectarians who, like the poor, seem to be always with us, while the profligates themselves continue to howl their baffled rage in a vain attempt to renew the mobbing, robbings, murders, and sufferings that resulted to the Latter-day Saints from the efforts of that ilk in times past.

San Francisco is the Mecca of all strike breakers.

The man who marries for money marries for love-of-money.

The Japanese seem to be developing into a nation of Tom Touchys.

What the New York street department needs just now is a Hercules.

Being in hoc, Mayor Schmitz can look forward to a "safe and sane" Fourth.

Is Colonel Waterston's "dark horse" in any manner identified with Orby?

Mark Twain will bring back from England many happy memories and a degree of happiness.

If any man asks, "Is it hot enough for you?" pull the June record and comments thereon on him.

The Hague peace conference is getting along bravely; in fact its purpose is to prevent international brawls.

The Yosemite bandit has not been captured, but the sheriffs of Mariposa and Madera counties are "in hot pursuit."

Uncle Sam closed the fiscal year with a surplus of eighty-seven million dollars in his pocket. It gives him a complacent, happy feeling.

In the Haywood case as much latitude is allowed in the introduction of evidence as there is in the states and territories west of the Mississippi.

With great gusto Mr. Darrow proclaims that Orchard is a liar. Why, he himself said on the witness stand that he lied whenever he wanted to.

At a monster revival meeting at Jackson, Miss., Governor Vardaman warned his way through the crowd and facing the altar, said: "I have been a sinner."

In claiming that the scientists of the agricultural department have, during the past year, saved untold millions to the people of the United States, Secretary Wilson proceeds on the politicians' theory of "claim everything."

Those four Wyoming ladies who prevented the breaking of the great Wheatland dam deserve as well of fame as did that little Dutch boy who held his hand over a hole in the dyke and prevented the inundation of Holland.

The registration of voters in Manila was very disappointing, indeed. The number registering was not nearly so great as anticipated, and of the vast crowds that thronged about the booths without registering. They doubtless went largely out of curiosity, and seeing nothing interesting, went away. The result does not seem encouraging along the line of education in preparation for self-government. But a first experiment should not be used to base any inference, on one way or the other.

PERMANENCE OF THE HAGUE TRIBUNAL.

Pueblo Chiefman.

Apparently the delegates, from the world powers are united on the proposition to strengthen the Hague arbitration tribunal, and the first important sitting of the conference will be devoted to the consideration of sympathetic propositions. In this important work the United States is playing a leading role, and is being assisted by Britain, Germany and several other leading powers. The important steps in this movement will be to make the Hague tribunal more easily accessible and to give it greater authority in international controversies. The special attention of the delegates at this time will be to simplify the method of procedure and to lessen the expense attached to bringing a case before this court, both of which are important considerations. In this matter of extending the authority of the tribunal Prof. de Martens has made some suggestions, the plan he offers being in reality a modification of the convention of 1899. The object of this plan is to make arbitration compulsory in as many cases as possible, and to accomplish this he proposes the reduction of extradition, the reduction of the "national honor" and "vital interests" provisions.

CHURCHES AT THE HAGUE.

Boston Herald.

Hague conference has been presented, signed by eminent men of the Anglican and Nonconformist churches of England, of the Protestant sects of Scotland, and of the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches in this country. They have urged the conference to act so that peace and justice may come more speedily upon earth, and the higher interests of humanity be furthered. English Roman Catholics, it is said, decided to join in the appeal because the powers for a second time excluded the papacy from the deliberations at The Hague; but this fact seems to have had no deterrent effect on at least eight of the bishops of the Roman church in this country whose names are reported as appended to the petition presented in behalf of the churches by Dean Freemantle of Ripon.

WE EAT LEATHER.

Kansas City Times.

"And then," said the Arctic explorer, "I ate my leather belt." "Pooh! what of that? Every mother's son of us eats a pair of shoes a year." The employer frowned. "This is no laughing matter," he said. "But the scientist interrupted him. 'I am not jesting, sir. I speak the solemn truth. What is leather? Is it not alibum and isn't this piece when you go to milk to your tea or coffee the tannin of the one and the alibum of the other unite and leather results. The leather is in minute particles, nevertheless it is there, and it goes. All who drink tea or coffee daily,' the scientist concluded, 'consume in a year enough leather to make a pair of shoes.'

JUST FOR FUN.

How They Think We Talk.

From Punch.

Now that the public taste has set so strongly toward American plays, it is time that somebody began to bring the dramas of William K. Shakespeare, of Stratford-on-Avon City, Warwick up to date. The fashion of Americanizing English successes has come to stay. It appears that we are to have an Americanized version of "The Ordeal" shortly. The following is a mere outline, but might be expanded, on reasonable terms, for Histron Sothern or Histron Edson, should either of them commission the adaptor.

Hamlet.

Scene—Battlements at Elsinore. Enter James P. Hamlet, son of the Danish President, and Horatio and Martineau (of the Elsinore football team).

Hamlet—Say, fellows, about this yer spirit. (Enter Ghost.)

H—Sure? G—In your pop, Your step-pop murdered me.

H—You don't say? G—Sure. Poured poison in my ear. I was easy fruit. Say, Hamlet, it's up to you.

H—Sure. (Exit Ghost.)

Scene—The Palace. Enter Hamlet, with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (sophomores of the Elsinore university).

Hamlet—Say, fellows, R and G—Huh.

H—Guess we'll have some theatricals here. Go and corral some all-wool stars.

R and G—Sure. (Exit R and G.)

H—Guess I'll make step-pop sit up, the pie-faced mut.

Scene—The Palace. The Players begin their play.

The Danish President—Say, Hamlet, get a book of the words with you? What's this piece about anyway?

Hamlet—You'll see quick enough. The President (as play proceeds)—Holy Cat! Some gabezo must have been giving this yaps the wise word. This is all about me and the late President. Yes, there I go pouring poison in his ear.

H—Like the play, pop?

The President—Vurrry bright, Hamlet; vurry bright. Beats Vaudeville all the way.

H (in a sinister manner)—Sure.

Scene—The Palace. Enter the President, Rosencrantz, Laertes, and all the characters who are left alive after preceding Act.

Hamlet—And now for a bully old rookhooze. (Stabs President and poisons President's wife.) That's the sort of man I am.

R and G (giving college yell)—Rah! Rah! Elsinore! Rah! Rah! Rah! H—O Laertes—Care to fence with poisoned rapers?

L—Sure. (They fence.)

H—Got you there. (Wounds him.)

L—Had you then. (Wounds him.)

My notice is up.

H—Me to the golden shore. (Dies.)

R and G—Rah! Rah! Elsinore! Rah! Rah! Rah!

Curtain.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Comedy of Life is the title of a little column of full-page illustrations reproduced from Life. The pictures cover a variety of subjects, ranging from a number of examples of Gibson, through the dainty drawings of Hutt, Bayard Jones, Read, Foster, Blashfield and Hanna, down to the fun of Kumble and Montgomery.

A couple of cartoons of alleged "Mormonism" reflect no credit on the intelligence of the artists. They are very far from true to life. The book is of quarto size, bound in green cloth, with a special design by Blashfield, and is a companion volume to "The Social Comedy," which is now in its fourth edition—17 West, Thirty-first street, New York.

The following are some of the features of Broadway Magazine for July: \$250,000 for Bridges; Charles H. Cochrane; "The Artist and the Indian," Florence Finch Kelly; "The Summer Pleasures of Society," Mary Montgomery. The short stories are: "The Spirit of the Living Thing," Filton Young; "The Things They Say," Zona Gale; "On the Tenth of October," Sherman F. Johnson; "The Mother Woman," Anna Alice Chapin; "Ki-Ko, the Wild Man," Raymond Lee Harriman; "The Winning of Yvonne," Lindsey Bashford; "The Duplicity of Tynan," John Barton Oxford; "The Collaborators," Margaret G. Fawcett; and "Bobby Durbin," Elford Bingham. In addition there are some fine verses, and the department are filled with good things—17 West, Twenty-second St., New York.

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